

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS TUNIS 000909

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR NEA/MAG (LAWRENCE)  
STATE FOR PM/DTCC (TWATKINS)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KOMC](#) [ETTC](#) [TS](#)

SUBJECT: BLUE LANTERN LEVEL 3: PRE-LICENSE END USE CHECK ON  
LICENSE 05-953951 FOR BELL HELICOPTER SPARE PARTS TO TUNISIA

REF: SECSTATE 51325

1. (SBU) Post has made appropriate inquiries to establish the legitimacy of a transaction for the export of AB205 Bell helicopter spare parts to Tunisia and concludes that it is a legitimate transaction. In addition, the post has investigated concerns regarding the end user, the Tunisian Army, and the large quantity of Bell helicopter spare parts in this order, and has assessed the risk of a diversion as very low.

2. (U) The Tunisian Ministry of Defense confirms that the Tunisian Air Force not, repeat not, the Tunisian Army has a contract with SW Florida Aviation to repair its AB205 Bell Helicopters. The repair work is carried out at the Sidi Ahmed Air Base in Tunisia. Supply contract #CM/MDN/2004 is currently in place with SW Florida Aviation. The contract is dated September 27, 2004 and covers work for one year. The Tunisian military utilizes AB205 Bell Helicopters primarily for internal troop movements and border surveillance. The AB205 Bell Helicopters are also used for VIP government transportation and logistics requirements as needed.

3. (U) SW Florida Technicians (part of SW Florida Aviation) has operated an office in Tunis since November 2004. The Tunisian Air force is the sole client of SW Florida Technicians (SW Florida Aviation) in Tunisia. Post has no information available on the number of clients throughout the region for either SW Florida Technicians or SW Florida Aviation. Post recommends that PM/DTCC seek information on regional clients directly from SW Florida Technicians or SW Florida Aviation or from other regional posts with SW Florida Technicians or SW Florida Aviation offices.

HUDSON